

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 L-03 EB-08 DOTE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2216

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0975

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, TD
SUBJECT: OMEGA TRINIDAD

REF: A) STATE 77989
B) PORT OF SPAIN 812

1. I MET AGAIN WITH FM DONALDSON MARCH 29 TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON OMEGA CONTAINED IN REF A. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SUMMARY MATRIX OF COUNTRY-TO-COUNTRY AGREEMENTS AND OFFER TO INCLUDE PROVISION IN TRINIDAD AGREEMENT SIMILAR TO ONE CONTAINED IN THAT WITH AUSTRALIA.

2. DONALDSON SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE TO CABINET THAT:
1) THERE BE A NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR THE JOINT OPERATION OF OMEGA TRINIDAD; 2) SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD EXCLUDE THE USE OF OMEGA TRINIDAD "FOR HOSTILE PURPOSES;" AND 3) THE AGREEMENT WOULD MAKE PROVISION FOR THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF OMEGA TRINIDAD OPERATIONS IF THE GOTT CONSIDERED THIS NECESSARY FOR SECURITY REASONS IN THE CASE OF HOSTILITIES. HE NOTED THAT POINT ONE HAD BEEN MET, IN EFFECT, IN THE DRAFT PROPOSAL WE PRESENTED IN JULY, 1977, AND THAT IT APPEARED THAT POINT THREE COULD BE COVERED BY A PROVISION SIMILAR TO THE ONE CONTAINED IN THE AUSTRALIAN AGREEMENT. DONALDSON THOUGHT THAT IF HE
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COULD MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL AND IF CABINET AGREED (AS HE IMPLIED IT WOULD), THE GOTT WOULD INFORM THE EMBASSY BY NOTE OF AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS OF OMEGA TRINIDAD, WITH THE MODALITIES TO BE SPELLED OUT SUBSEQUENTLY IN AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES. THE GOVERNMENT AT SOME POINT WOULD HAVE TO ANNOUNCE THE EXTENSION OF OMEGA

TRINIDAD IN PARLIAMENT BUT WOULD EXPLAIN THAT THIS WAS BEING DONE UNDER A NEW AGREEMENT AND DESCRIBE THE WAYS IN WHICH TRINIDAD'S INTERESTS WERE BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THROUGH THAT AGREEMENT.

3. DONALDSON MENTIONED THAT ON MARCH 29 THE FRG AMBASSADOR (VOGELER) HAD EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF OMEGA TRINIDAD. DONALDSON SAID HE HAD ASSUMED VOGELER THAT THE OMEGA ISSUE REMAINED UNDER ACTIVE DISCUSSION WITH THE USG, AND THAT IN ANY CASE NO PRECIPITOUS ACTION TO CLOSE THE TRINIDAD STATION WOULD BE TAKEN.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. SINCE DONALDSON OFFERED TO TAKE UP THE OMEGA ISSUE IN THE APRIL 6 CABINET MEETING, WE WOULD LIKE AUTHORIZATION TO DELIVER A NOTE TO MIN EXTAFF AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE THAT WEEK BUT BY COB APRIL 4 AT LATEST. NOTE SHOULD ADDRESS THE THREE POINTS DONALDSON MADE IN PARA TWO ABOVE, AND DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PROVIDE SOME SPECIFIC LANGUAGE TO ASSURE CONSISTENCY WITH UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON OMEGA AND WITH THE NOTE WHICH WOULD EVENTUALLY BE SENT IN ANY EXCHANGE OF NOTES FOLLOWING GOTT AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO THE EXTENSION OF OMEGA. PLEASE ADVISE.

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